

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method of exchanging goods and services in a non-centralized exchange system; the method comprising:

registering, by a matchmaker autonomous agent, with at least one of a plurality of directory services;

receiving, at [[a]] the matchmaker autonomous agent, advertisements from a plurality of vendor autonomous agents, wherein the plurality of vendor autonomous agents obtained the identity and contact information of the matchmaker autonomous agent from the at least one of a plurality of directory services and wherein the advertisements comprise an informational format designated by the matchmaker;

obtaining, by a consumer autonomous agent, the identity and the contact information about the matchmaker autonomous agent from the at least one directory service;

receiving, at the consumer autonomous agent, a ~~consumer agent selected~~ list of advertisements from the matchmaker autonomous agent, wherein the each advertisement in the selected list of advertisements match criteria specified by the consumer autonomous agent;

sending, from the consumer autonomous agent, a request for a quote to one or more of the vendor autonomous agents corresponding to advertisements in the ~~consumer agent selected~~ list of advertisements; and

receiving, by the consumer autonomous agent, responses from the one or more vendor autonomous agents.

2. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

completing a purchase of a product from a selected one of the one or more vendor autonomous agents replying with an offer for sale.

3. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~consumer agent selected~~ list of advertisements is provided to the consumer autonomous agent for a fee.

4. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the fee includes a subscription fee to the matchmaker ~~service~~ autonomous agent.

5. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the fee includes a fee per list of advertisements provided to the consumer autonomous agent by the matchmaker autonomous agent.

6. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the matchmaker autonomous agent charges a fee to each of the plurality of vendor autonomous agents for listing the advertisements with the matchmaker ~~service~~ autonomous agent.

7. (Original): The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the fee includes a subscription fee.

8. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the fee includes a fee per advertisement listed with the matchmaker autonomous agent.

9-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended): A method for a consumer to locate one or more vendors of a product, the method comprising:

autonomously finding, by a consumer autonomous agent, contact information for one or more matchmakers from a directory service; [[and]]

autonomously requesting, by the consumer autonomous agent, and receiving from at least one matchmaker a vendor information for a particular category of products from at least one matchmaker; and

receiving, by the consumer autonomous agent, a list of vendors for the particular category of products from the at least one matchmaker.

35. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the ~~vendor information~~ list of vendors includes contact information for each vendor.

36. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 34, further comprising:
autonomously requesting a quote from one or more vendors on the list of vendors.
37. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim ~~[[38]]~~ 36, further comprising:
autonomously completing a purchase for a product with a selected one of the vendors supplying a quote for the product.
38. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by the consumer autonomous agent is selected after a search of available product categories from the matchmaker.
39. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by the consumer autonomous agent is selected after browsing a listing of categories available from the matchmaker.
40. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by the consumer autonomous agent is selected using at least one keyword search term.
41. (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by the consumer autonomous agent is selected based on a similarity to a selected listing.
42. (Currently Amended): A method of selling products, the method comprising:
identifying, by a seller autonomous agent, a matchmaker using at least one of a plurality of directory services containing contact information for one or more matchmakers, wherein at least one directory service contains a different set of matchmakers from at least one other directory service;
autonomously contacting, by the seller autonomous agent, the matchmaker and obtaining advertisement content and format requirements;

autonomously creating, by the seller autonomous agent, an advertisement
complying with advertisement content and format requirements for the matchmaker; and
autonomously providing the advertisement to the matchmaker.

43. (Original): The method as recited in claim 42, further comprising:
providing the matchmaker with a preferred presentation of the advertisement.

44. (Original): The method as recited in claim 43, wherein the preferred presentation of the advertisement comprises a preferred placement of the advertisement in a list of advertisements provided to consumer agents.

45. (Currently Amended): A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for exchanging goods and services in a non-centralized exchange system; the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for registering, by a matchmaker autonomous agent, with at least one of a plurality of directory services;

second instructions for receiving, at [[a]] the matchmaker autonomous agent, advertisements from a plurality of vendor autonomous agents, wherein the plurality of vendor autonomous agents obtained the identity and contact information of the matchmaker autonomous agent from the at least one of a plurality of directory services and wherein the advertisements comprise an informational format designated by the matchmaker autonomous agent;

third instructions for obtaining, by a consumer autonomous agent, the identity and the contact information about the matchmaker autonomous agent from the at least one directory service;

fourth instructions for receiving, at the consumer autonomous agent, a ~~consumer agent-selected~~ list of advertisements from the matchmaker autonomous agent, wherein the each advertisement in the selected list of advertisements match criteria specified by the consumer autonomous agent;

fifth instructions for sending, from the consumer autonomous agent, a request for a quote to one or more of the vendor autonomous agents corresponding to advertisements in the consumer autonomous agent selected list of advertisements; and

sixth instructions for receiving, by the consumer autonomous agent, responses from the one or more vendor autonomous agents.

46. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 45, further comprising:

seventh instructions for completing a purchase of a product from a selected one of the one or more vendor autonomous agents replying with an offer for sale.

47. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 45, wherein the ~~consumer agent selected~~ list of advertisements is provided to the consumer autonomous agent for a fee.

48. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 47, wherein the fee includes a subscription fee to the matchmaker ~~service~~ autonomous agent.

49. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 47, wherein the fee includes a fee per list of advertisements provided to the consumer autonomous agent by the matchmaker autonomous agent.

50. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 45, wherein the matchmaker autonomous agent charges a fee to each of the plurality of vendor autonomous agents for listing the advertisements with the matchmaker ~~service~~ autonomous agent.

51. (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the fee includes a subscription fee.

52. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the fee includes a fee per advertisement listed with the matchmaker autonomous agent.

53-77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently Amended): A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for a consumer to locate one or more vendors of a product, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for finding, by a consumer autonomous agent, contact information for one or more matchmakers from a directory service; [[and]]

second instructions for autonomously requesting, by the consumer autonomous agent, ~~and receiving from at least one matchmaker~~ vendor information for a particular category of products from at least one matchmaker; and

third instructions for receiving, by the consumer autonomous agent, a list of vendors for the particular category of products from the at least one matchmaker.

79. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 78, wherein the ~~vendor information~~ list of vendors includes contact information for each vendor.

80. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 78, further comprising:

~~third~~ fourth instructions for autonomously requesting a quote from one or more vendors on the list of vendors.

81. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 80, further comprising:

~~fourth~~ fifth instructions for autonomously completing a purchase for a product with a selected one of the vendors supplying a quote for the product.

82. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 78, wherein the ~~vendor information includes~~ a list of vendors for a particular category of products

requested by the consumer autonomous agent ~~the list of vendors~~ is selected after a search of available product categories from the matchmaker.

83. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 78, wherein the ~~vendor information includes a list of vendors for a particular category of products~~ requested by the consumer autonomous agent ~~the list of vendors~~ is selected after browsing a listing of categories available from the matchmaker.

84. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 78, wherein the ~~vendor information includes a list of vendors for a particular category of products~~ requested by the consumer autonomous agent ~~the list of vendors~~ is selected using at least one keyword search term.

85. (Currently Amended): The computer program product as recited in claim 78, wherein the ~~vendor information includes a list of vendors for a particular category of products~~ requested by the consumer autonomous agent ~~the list of vendors~~ is selected based on a similarity to a selected listing.

86. (Currently Amended): A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for selling products, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for identifying, by a seller autonomous agent, a matchmaker using at least one of a plurality of directory services containing contact information for one or more matchmakers, wherein at least one directory service contains a different set of matchmakers from at least one other directory service;

second instructions for autonomously contacting, by the seller autonomous agent, the matchmaker and obtaining advertisement content and format requirements;

third instructions for autonomously creating, by the seller autonomous agent, an advertisement complying with advertisement content and format requirements for the matchmaker; and

fourth instructions for autonomously providing, by the seller autonomous agent,
the advertisement to the matchmaker.

87. (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 86, further comprising:
fifth instructions for providing the matchmaker with a preferred presentation of
the advertisement.

88. (Original): The computer program product as recited in claim 87, wherein the
preferred presentation of the advertisement comprises a preferred placement of the
advertisement in a list of advertisements provided to consumer agents.

89. (Currently Amended): A system for exchanging goods and services in a non-
centralized exchange system; the system comprising:

a first component in a matchmaker autonomous agent which registers with at least
one of a plurality of directory services;

a second component in the matchmaker autonomous agent which receives
advertisements from a plurality of vendor autonomous agents, wherein the plurality of
vendor autonomous agents obtain the identity and contact information of the matchmaker
autonomous agent from the at least one of a plurality of directory services and wherein
the advertisements comprise an informational format designated by the matchmaker
autonomous agent;

a third component in a consumer autonomous agent which obtains the identity and
the contact information about the matchmaker autonomous agent from the at least one
directory service;

a fourth component in the consumer autonomous agent which receives a
~~consumer agent-selected~~ list of advertisements from the matchmaker autonomous agent,
wherein the each advertisement in the selected list of advertisements match criteria
specified by the consumer autonomous agent;

a fifth component in the consumer autonomous agent which sends a request for a
quote to one or more of the vendor autonomous agents corresponding to advertisements
in the consumer autonomous agent selected list of advertisements; and

a sixth component in the consumer autonomous agent which receives responses from the one or more vendor autonomous agents.

90. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 89, further comprising:

a seventh component in the consumer autonomous agent which completes a purchase of a product from a selected one of the one or more vendor autonomous agents replying with an offer for sale.

91. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 89, wherein the ~~consumer agent~~ ~~selected~~ list of advertisements is provided to the consumer autonomous agent for a fee.

92. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 91, wherein the fee includes a subscription fee to the matchmaker ~~service~~ autonomous agent.

93. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 91, wherein the fee includes a fee per list of advertisements provided to the consumer autonomous agent by the matchmaker autonomous agent.

94. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 89, wherein the matchmaker autonomous agent charges a fee to each of the plurality of vendor autonomous agents for listing the advertisements with the matchmaker ~~service~~ autonomous agent.

95. (Original): The system as recited in claim 94, wherein the fee includes a subscription fee.

96. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 94, wherein the fee includes a fee per advertisement listed with the matchmaker autonomous agent.

97-121. (Canceled)

122. (Currently Amended): A system for a consumer to locate one or more vendors of a product, the system comprising:

a first component of a consumer autonomous agent which autonomously finds contact information for one or more matchmakers from a directory service; [[and]]

a second component of the consumer autonomous agent which autonomously requests and receives from at least one matchmaker vendor information for a particular category of products from at least one matchmaker; and

a third component of the consumer autonomous agent which receives a list of vendors for the particular category of products from the at least one matchmaker.

123. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 122, wherein the ~~vendor information~~ list of vendors includes contact information for each vendor.

124. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 122, further comprising:

a ~~third~~ fourth component of the consumer autonomous agent which autonomously requests a quote from one or more vendors on the list of vendors.

125. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 124, further comprising:

a ~~fourth~~ fifth component of the consumer autonomous agent which autonomously completes a purchase for a product with a selected one of the vendors supplying a quote for the product.

126. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 122, wherein the ~~vendor information includes~~ a list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by the consumer autonomous agent ~~and the list of vendors~~ is selected after a search of available product categories from the matchmaker.

127. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 122, wherein the ~~vendor information includes~~ a list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by

the consumer autonomous agent ~~and the list of vendors~~ is selected after browsing a listing of categories available from the matchmaker.

128. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 122, wherein the ~~vendor information includes~~ a list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by the consumer autonomous agent ~~and the list of vendors~~ is selected using at least one keyword search term.

129. (Currently Amended): The system as recited in claim 122, wherein the ~~vendor information includes~~ a list of vendors for a particular category of products requested by the consumer autonomous agent ~~the list of vendors~~ is selected based on a similarity to a selected listing.

130. (Currently Amended): A system for selling products, the system comprising:

- a first component of a seller autonomous agent which identifies a matchmaker using at least one of a plurality of directory services containing contact information for one or more matchmakers, wherein at least one directory service contains a different set of matchmakers from at least one other directory service;
- a second component of the seller autonomous agent which autonomously contacts the matchmaker and obtains advertisement content and format requirements;
- a third component of the seller autonomous agent which autonomously creates an advertisement complying with advertisement content and format requirements for the matchmaker; and
- a fourth component of the seller autonomous agent which autonomously provides the advertisement to the matchmaker.

131. (Original): The system as recited in claim 130, further comprising:

- a fifth component which provides the matchmaker with a preferred presentation of the advertisement.

132. (Original): The system as recited in claim 131, wherein the preferred presentation of the advertisement comprises a preferred placement of the advertisement in a list of advertisements provided to consumer agents.